

**SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS ELECTORAL AREA
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

Notice of a Meeting to be held
Tuesday, April 21th, 2020 at 2:00pm
Held by Microsoft Teams

SGI CESC Commissioners: Deb Goldman, Chair (Mayne) Ian Elliott, (Pender) Mike Hoebel (Galiano), David Howe (SGI Director), Justine Starke (CRD Staff) Melody Pender – Recorder

Guests: Ed Andrusiak, SGI Liaisons: Jean Daniel Cusin, Katie Dentry, Emma Davis

Regrets: Priscilla Zimmerman (Saturna)

- Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Deb Goldman to approve the Agenda as presented, **SECONDED** by Mike Hoebel

CARRIED

- SGI CESC Economic Resiliency and Recovery Plan
 - Is this approach a priority to allocate scarce resources to and is this something the commission would like to prioritize as the main work program for the next couple months?
 - Does the commission see itself as fulfilling this role in the region to be a coordinator of economic response at a regional level? Commissioners will need to have an active role as leaders in their community to initiate conversations at a political level.
 - What is the role of the EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) in their efforts of information gathering?
 - In support of overall planning, it is an overall view of what is happening in each of the electoral area.
 - They are work on a catalogue of businesses and local community organizations on each island to get an accurate picture of how many businesses and entities we have on the various islands. The EOC is a support role not a lead.
 - Each island discussed the role they see their own EOC's are taking on their islands
 - Will the CRD have anything that will do something other than collect and disseminate information. There isn't any planned additional funding to support economic recovery on the islands. Essential services are being maintained.
 - *Is there a need for an umbrella coordination function across the SGI region?*
 - Galiano already has a lot of coordination
 - Mayne feels they could use some coordination
 - Pender has some coordination already through the CRC
 - Saturna is somewhat behind in its coordination efforts
 - Take inventory of what each island group is doing and not duplicate the efforts. With this knowledge match funding opportunities with these groups as required.
 - This is the opportunity to identify another economic opportunity outside of tourism which has for years been the main economic driver. *There is an opportunity to provide a stronger diversified economic base for the islands.*
 - There is recognition that this is an opportunity, some initiatives in the spreadsheet fits the CESC mandate and the work plan, there are a lot of people not working who could help roll out the plan

- Do we have the energy to roll this plan out?
- How is each community responding, what is already being done and where are the gaps that need to be filled and who can fill them?
- There is no economic sustainable model for the SGI's. Difficult to attract investors as there is no room for growth due in part to no density. This pandemic has moved our economies towards a more digital economy but the infrastructure is lacking. There is an awakening towards food security and on the Pender the groups are starting to work together.
- Could the CESC provide coordinated support, lead where we need to and follow where should.
 - It was suggested to ask the community groups themselves if they want any help and what else do they need support with.
- Mike suggested you go to the groups on your islands and ask the question: would you like or do you see the need for any regional coordination?

Review of the spreadsheet: Jean Daniel is taking notes directly into the spreadsheet.

MOVED by Ian Elliott that the SGI CESC has a formal role to play in our communities in economic recovery. **SECONDED** by David Howe **CARRIED**

ACTION: Commissioners asked to outreach to your groups and ask if support is required or would be valued. Further discussion at next meeting.

- Rural Island Economic Partnership
 - Gift Card program: the website platform is being developed. The pay to play fee is being worked on and they will be asking various groups to contribute to the program, fees are still being worked out.
 - Info Hub page is up on the RIEP webpage and continuously updated on the various support and relief programs.

Due to the many meetings around the islands, it was requested that if anyone is attending meetings where information could be useful for the CESC to know that you take notes and email around to the commissioners so we can stay informed, if possible.

- New Business - none
- Next regular meeting – April 27, 2020 2pm